

Community Gazette for District 11

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New Minister at Riverdale's Christ Church

by Robert Lebowitz
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The Riverdale Review

Music has always served as a key component in inspiring worshippers to greater religious devotion.

This is particularly true for one new spiritual leader in Riverdale.

Reverend Robert Cole Lamborn, installed as the new rector at Christ Church on Sunday, October 17, has always deeply loved music. Growing up as the son of two music educators in northwest Georgia, Lamborn, 39, initially intended to become a music educator himself, earning an undergraduate degree in music education and completing the course work for a Ph.D in musicology at Indiana University at Bloomington.

However, while in grade school, Lamborn felt a calling to the ministry, and he subsequently chose to attend the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee to pursue this vocation.

For Lamborn, music still plays a central role both in his personal worship and in his service as rector. One of his chief ministerial interests is enhancing liturgy through music.

"I continue to love music and to value and use my training," he said.

Lamborn's path to Christ Church, an Episcopalian congregation located at 5030 Henry Hudson Parkway, began when his wife, Amy, who is also an ordained minister, was drawn to pursue studies in psychology to complement her theological training. Union Theological Seminary in the Morningside Heights area of Manhattan offered the best program for her, and so the couple moved to New York City.

While looking for a parish ministry in the area, Lamborn discovered that Christ Church shared many of his own goals in the areas of Christian education, stewardship, and outreach and that the Church's emphasis on music as integral to its religious practice mirrored his own. After the church's former rector, Rev. William Davidson, retired at the end of 2002, Christ Church had been looking for a replacement, and so Lamborn began meeting with the search committee.

"I formed an immediate connection with those involved in the search process--the search committee and vestry, or church board," Lamborn recalled. "Christ Church's goals, tradition in worship, and diversity continue to excite me and energize me for shared ministry with these talented, yet down-to-earth people."

Lamborn was eventually offered the position, and, upon acceptance, he moved his family to

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Riverdale. Although someone hailing from a small town in Georgia might find the transition to New York City to be difficult, Lamborn has been settling in here just fine.

"I am enjoying it very much so far [in Riverdale]. Having visited New York previously, but never having lived here, I did not know anything about Riverdale, but I am finding it beautiful, and a great place to raise a family," he said.

When not serving the Christ Church community, Lamborn enjoys spending time with his wife and infant daughter, Caroline, as well as reading, exercising, playing golf, woodworking and playing the trombone. He is also working toward the degree of Doctor of Ministry from Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia, which he will continue to pursue during his tenure here.

For more information on Christ Church, please see the congregation's Web site at <http://www.christchurchriverdale.org> or call the Church office at (718) 543-1011.